January 27 – February 2, 2022 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 04 www.associatednewspapers.net

Blood donation shortages threaten patient care

> *If more donors don't come forward to give blood, some patients requiring a transfusion may potentially face delays in care.*

The American Red Cross, which provides 40 percent of the blood supplies in the country, is facing historically low blood supply levels, according to officials who sent out an emergency plea for donations recently.

Holiday schedules, breaks from school and winter weather all contributed to a drop in blood and platelets donations, officials said. Those factors, combined with the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, make it vital for donors to make an appointment to give as soon as possible. If more donors don't come forward to give blood, some patients requiring a transfusion may potentially face delays in care, according to a prepared statement from the Red Cross.

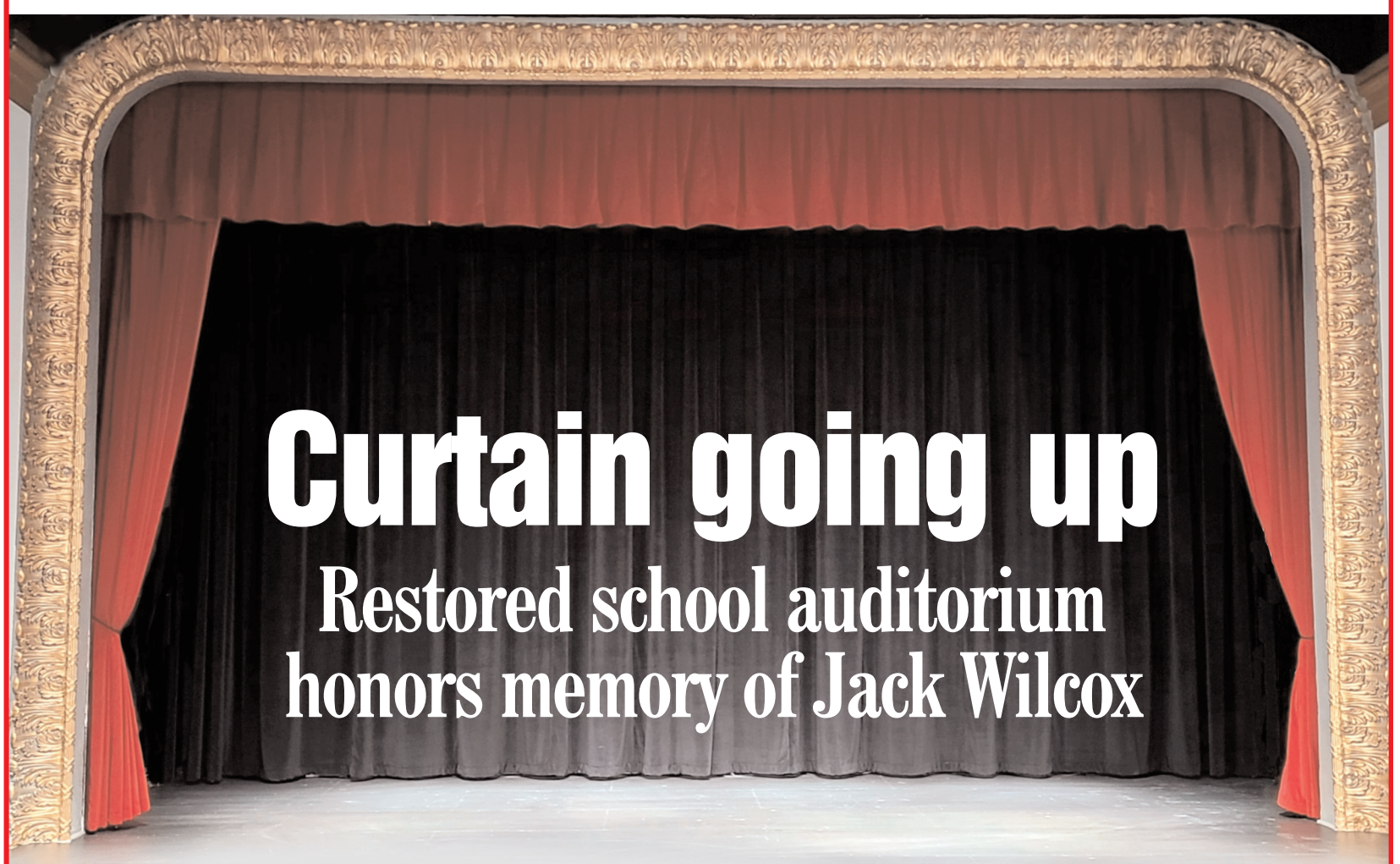
Donors are asked to schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). There is no blood donation waiting period for those who have received a flu shot or a Moderna, Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine or booster, so long as they are symptom-free.

The organization spokesman stressed the safety of blood donations. Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions - including face masks for donors and staff, regardless of vaccination status - have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance, according to the organization.

Donors can also save up to 15 minutes at the blood drive by completing a RapidPass®. With RapidPass®, donors complete the pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of donation, from a mobile device or computer. To complete a RapidPass®, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

To donate blood, individuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states, weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the blood in the nation; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit Twitter at @RedCross.



Curtain going up

Restored school auditorium honors memory of Jack Wilcox

The curtain is rising on a fitting memorial to an icon of the Plymouth community.

The new Jack Wilcox Theatre will host a premiere performance this spring, although the current COVID pandemic has delayed the planned Jan. 22 grand opening. The cutting-edge technology and beauty of the new performance auditorium is matched only by the respect paid to the historic tradition of the space.

The new 320-seat theater is located inside the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex (PARC) and has been under construction for several months. The theater is named for Plymouth icon Jack Wilcox who graduated from the building when it was Plymouth High School. Mr. Wilcox, who established a charitable trust to benefit the community before his death in 2000, also performed on the school stage as a charter member of the Plymouth Players. His charitable trust, which became The Wilcox Foundation following his death, donated $1.2 million, nearly the entire cost, toward funding construction of the new, state-of-the-art auditorium.

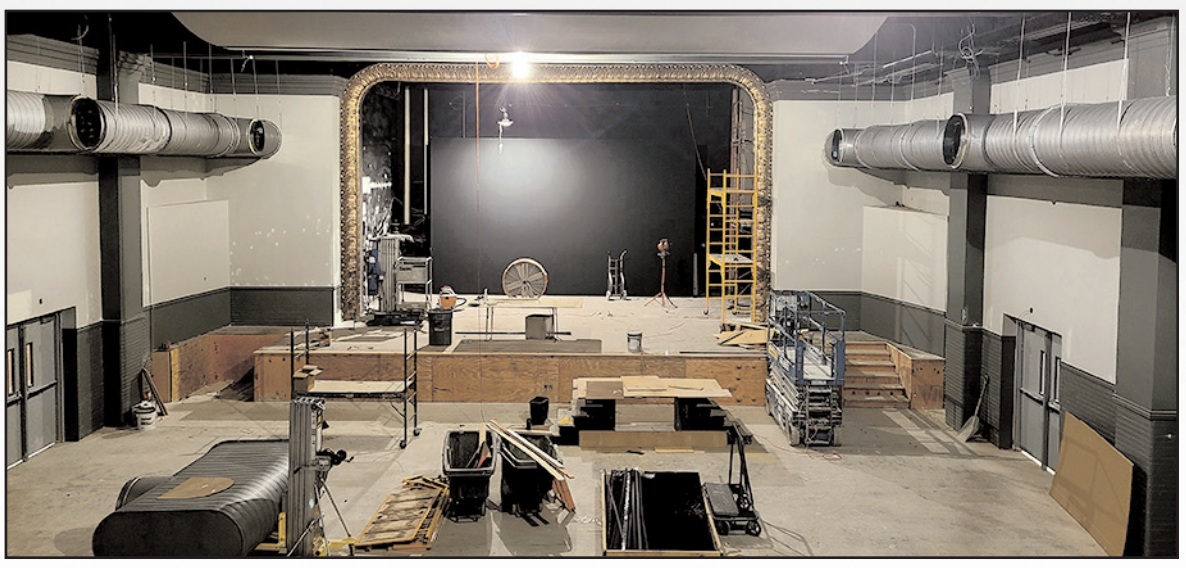
The transformation at the former combination school auditorium and cafeteria has taken months, explained Gail Grieger, executive director of the PARC. She explained that the repurposing and restoration of the 1960s-era space may have taken much longer than anticipated, "but the end was worth the wait." She said the project faced challenges including labor shortages, supply chain issues and the general uncertainties caused by the global pandemic.

Photos by Michael Grabowski.

"We thought this was perfect, that it would give the Wilcox family some legacy, a permanent facility in the city," said Scott Dodge, a longtime Wilcox family friend and president of the Wilcox Foundation.

The plans originated, Grieger said, with the members of the PARC Board of Directors and President Don Soenen who were determined to provide a functional and versatile venue for community performance arts groups such as the Michigan Philharmonic, Forever After Productions and Artistry Dance Center, all now tenants at PARC.

"This is a very special moment as we finish the total renovation of the theater at PARC," Soenen said. "Melding the original architecture and character of the venue with present day state-of-the-art technology, this theater will be a



See **PARC,** page 6

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 137, No. 04

Sumpter Township Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke recently reminded residents that the township continues to offer a 24-hour warming center during inclement weather.

See page 6.

THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 75, No. 04

A Canton Township man has been sentenced to 19 years in prison after admitting to the court that he sexually abused a child from the time she was 5 until she was 12.

See page 3.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 75, No. 04

Najah Bazzy, founder and CEO, of Zaman International, continues to work to help households meet their basic needs and break the cycle of poverty.

See page 2.

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 22, No. 04

Northville River Restoration Task Force members presented their framework report to members of the city council, during a recent meeting.

See page 5.

THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
Vol. 22, No. 04

The death of Jack G. Tornga, a long-time Noon Rotary Club member, who died last Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022 is being mourned throughout the area.

See page 6.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN
Vol. 137, No. 04

Seven local businesses in the City of Romulus have received Going PRO Talent Fund grants, totaling $255,819.

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THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 75, No. 04

Retired 29th District Court Judge Laura Mack took the helm of the Northwest Wayne County chapter of Families Against Narcotics on Jan. 1.

See page 4.

THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 75, No. 04

Three Random Acts of Kindness were rewarded in Westland last week during an official presentation during the regular meeting of the city council.

See page 6.

Inkster - Romulus

Romulus businesses awarded $255,819 in grant funds

Seven local businesses in the City of Romulus have received Going PRO Talent Fund grants, totaling $255,819. This state funding will allow businesses to continue investing in their employees and demonstrating growth in 2021 and 2022, officials said.

The Going PRO Talent Fund assists employers with training, developing and retention of current and newly-hired employees. This helps ensure that Michigan employers attract and keep the talent they need to compete and grow, while also ensuring applicants have the skills they need for in-demand jobs, according to Romulus Mayor Robert McCraight.

"Romulus has a rich community of hardworking individuals who show up to work every day and play their part in supporting our city's local economy, said McCraight. "With support from the Going PRO Talent Fund, our local businesses will have the means necessary to ensure that our working community has the skills and resources they need to grow and thrive."

> *Michigan's greatest asset is our people. We need to continue investing in them to ensure a strong economic recovery and growth.*

Romulus businesses awarded Going PRO Talent Fund grants include: Aerostar Manufacturing, 2021 - $45,495/2022 - $496,392; Aztec Manufacturing, 2021 - $11,030/ 2022 - $12,000; Environmental Testing and Consulting, 2021 - $43,272/2022 - $30,450; Metro Machine Works, 2021 - $2,385; Superior Materials LLC; 2021 - $3,000/2022 - $4,500; USF Holland, 2021 - $30,000 and Yapp, 2021 - $27,395.

"Michigan's greatest asset is our people. We need to continue investing in them to ensure a strong economic recovery and growth," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in a prepared statement. "Programs like the Going PRO Talent Fund help us put Michiganders first, ensuring they can get on a path to a good-paying job and empower businesses of all sizes to develop the talent they need to compete in the global economy."

Inkster 'hero' continues efforts to aid entire community

Najah Bazzy, founder and CEO, of Zaman International, is still a hero.

Bazzy, who operates the 501c3 nonprofit which works to help households meet their basic needs and break the cycle of poverty, was named as one of CNN's heroes in 2019. She has used the funding raised during the "Share the Love" Subaru GoFundMe campaign which accompanied the CNN designation to continue to help families in Inkster and throughout the families.

The organization works to empower households with training and vocational programs and features a workforce development kitchen to sell baked goods online. It also has an industrial sewing school and a culinary school. All are located inside a 45,000 square foot Inkster warehouse on Trowbridge Street. Bazzy's work in Inkster and Metro Detroit and around the world has gotten her recognized by outlets like CNN and People Magazine. She started Zaman International out of the back of her van in 1996 and now it has grown into the huge facility in Inkster. Through a voucher program, women have access to free basic needs like food and clothing. The organization also offers job-ready skill training and language and literacy classes.

Najah Bassy

Clients at the culinary arts program are trained and the kitchen produces baked goods marketed online as a way to fund the ongoing operations. There is also an onsite Client Choice Food Pantry and Mobile Hot Food Pantry. Zaman is an official partner of Gleaners Community Food Bank. The Zaman's Client Choice Food Pantry allows families to choose culturally appropriate and nutritionally balanced food each month. The Mobile Hot Food Pantry delivers meals, created by the culinary arts students, to home-bound families in need. The organization also offers a case management program for clients and the Plots for Tots infant burial program which assists families that cannot afford a proper burial for their fetus, infant or toddler. Zaman also works in humanitarian relief internationally in partnership with International Medical Corps.

Zaman supports the building of wells in some of the most devastated communities around the world and helps communities recover from natural disasters and violent conflicts.

In addition to cash, Zaman International accepts donations of gently used clothing and goods. To donate, visit the Zaman International website and click the link to view donation bin locations, or fill out a simple form so a staff member can make arrangements to accept donations.

Zaman accepts clothing, home furnishings, household appliances, kitchen accessories and bedroom furniture in good condition, clean and working. A complete list can be found on the donate goods page on the Zaman website.

Bazzy explained that every day, parents are forced to choose between purchasing food for their families or paying the costs of housing, utilities and other essentials. Zaman International is committed to taking action so these families and their children won't have to go a day without a meal, she said.

Currently, families in need receive culturally appropriate and nutritionally balanced food each month from the Client Choice Food Pantry. Home-bound clients receive regular deliveries of hot meals prepared in our Culinary Arts Kitchen.

For more information about the Client Choice Food Pantry and other services, contact Zaman at info@zamaninternational.org or (313) 551-3994.

CITY OF ROMULUS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP 21/22-01 CONSULTANT SERVICES-WATER LOSS AUDIT

The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking proposals from qualified consultants (Engineering, Finance, and Consultant Contractor) who will complete an all-encompassing and comprehensive water loss audit in accordance with the American Water Works Association (AWWA) manual M36. The scope provided below is only a guideline of the minimum requirements to be researched in achieving a successful outcome. The vendor is also provide an alternative option which is solely based on the proponent's success in the past to follow in determining the potential and solving the outcome of non-revenue water loss.

(1) Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit a proposal must use the forms provided by the City. Proposal forms and specifications may be obtained from the MITN Purchasing Group Page of Bidnet Direct at http://www.mitn.info/. Copies of documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. Proposals may be rejected unless made on the forms included with the bidding documents.

(2) Questions must be emailed to Purchasing@romulusgov.com and received no later 12:00 PM local time on February 8, 2022.

(3) Clarifications, modifications, or amendments may be made to this solicitation at the discretion of the City. Any and all addenda issued by the City will be posted on the MITN Purchasing Group Page of Bidnet Direct. All interested parties are instructed to view the MITN Purchasing Group Page of Bidnet Direct website regularly for any issued addenda. It is the responsibility of the bidder to obtain all issued addenda and acknowledge receipt of said addenda by including a printed copy of each addendum as part of the required documents for this solicitation and to list the addendum and sign and date the "Acknowledgment of Receipt Addenda Form: supplied in the RFP documents.

(4) Proposals should be addressed using the proposal label provided in the RFP. When submitting hardcopies, a total of three (3) copies (One original and two marked "Copy") and 1 electronic copy in "PDF" form of the documents must be submitted together in one sealed envelope or package and returned to the City Clerk's Office no later than 2:00 P.M., Thursday, February 17, 2022. The original proposal may be clipped but should not be stapled or bound. Copies may be stapled or bound. The original and copies should be identical, excluding the obvious difference in labeling.

(5) At approximately 3:00 p.m. local time following the deadline for submitting bids, all timely received proposals are to be publicly opened and read.

(6) The successful Contractor will be required to enter into a contract with shall submit proof of all insurance as required by the request for proposal documents and originals of all required endorsements acceptable to the City.

(7) The City reserves the right to postpone the opening without notification and also reserves the right to reject all proposals and to waive any minor informality or irregularity in proposals received. Ultimately, a contract may be awarded to the lowest most responsive and responsible company, as determined in the sole discretion of the City of Romulus or otherwise in a manner deemed by the City to be in its own best interest.

(8) The City reserves the right to reject as non-responsive any proposals that do not contain the information requested in this RFP

(9) The City reserves the right to reject as non-responsive any proposals which are not organized and formatted as described in this RFP.

(10) The City, during the course of the evaluation process, may request additional written information to supplement and clarify the information provided in this response.

(11) The City, at the discretion of the proposal evaluation team, may conduct interviews with some or all of the companies that submitted proposals for consideration.

(12) For additional information contact Gary Harris, City of Romulus, Purchasing Director, by calling (734) 955-4568 or by emailing Purchasing@romulusgov.com .

(13) The City of Romulus strictly prohibits the reproduction or publishing of any published document or solicitation without the express written consent of the City of Romulus. Unauthorized posting of any notice of these documents or reference to said documents or solicitations is strictly prohibited.

Publish: 1/27/2022

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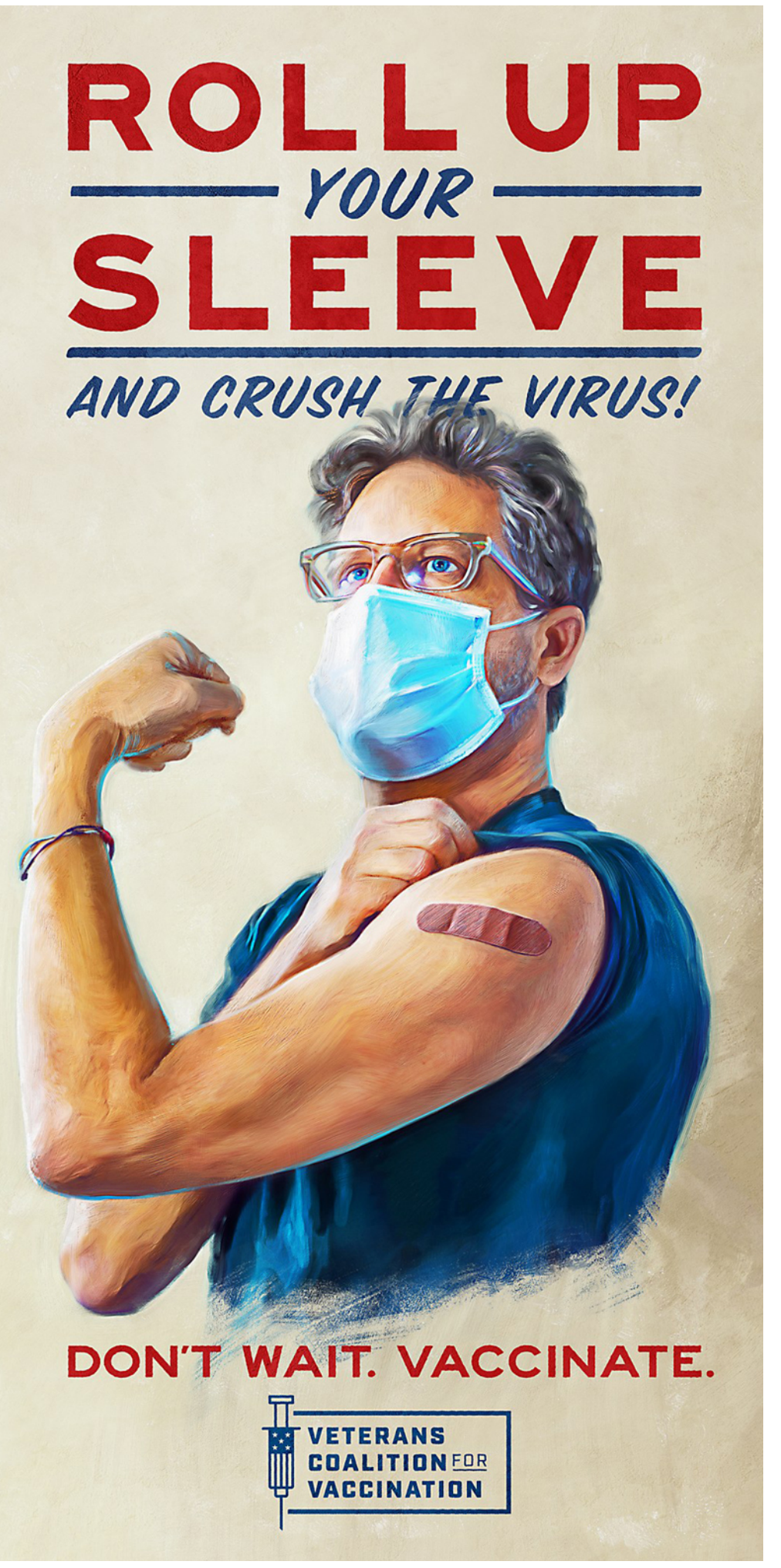

CANTON

Canton man sentenced in sexual abuse of minors

A Canton Township man has been sentenced to 19 years in prison after admitting to the court that he sexually abused a child from the time she was 5 until she was 12.

The victim went to authorities at the age of 20 prompting an investigation by the FBI which resulted in the confession of Shailesh Patel, 54. Patel, the owner of a Dunkin Donuts and a Baskin-Robbins, accepted a plea deal with prosecutors on the charges of sexual exploitation of children. Patel admitted that on at least one occasion, he gave a 10-year-old girl his cell phone in 2010 and instructed her to use the phone to make a sexual video of herself, showing her genital area.

According to court records, there were multiple victims of abuse by Patel who confirmed the instances to investigators. All the victims told authorities that Patel was married to the youth leader at the temple they attended, and the 20-year-old who came forward said her family spent time at the Patel home where most of the abuse took place. She gave the investigators graphic details of Patel's abuse starting when she was 5. She said that by the time she was 8 the abuse had progressed to Patel putting his genitals in her mouth and attempting to penetrate her sexually. She said he requested the cell phone videos while she was between the ages of 7 and 9.

> *The victim in this case demonstrated great courage coming forward with her story, stopping Patel's abuse.*

One FBI investigator wrote that the victim was afraid to come forward to tell her family what was happening because it "would hurt their standing in the community."

A second accuser, now 24, made similar allegations against Patel which she said took place when she was a child. She also provided graphic details of the abuse and unwanted sexual touching and contact.

Investigators found a sexually explicit video of one of Patel's accusers on his home computer during a search of his house. In subsequent interviews with FBI agents, according to court records, Patel admitted to the sexual abuse of the victim and two or three children. He also admitted to the sexual touching of the second accuser during the interviews, according to court documents.

"The victim in this case demonstrated great courage coming forward with her story, stopping Patel's abuse and likely preventing future victims," U.S. Attorney Dawn N. Ison said.

Patel was sentenced to 228 months in prison on charges of sexual exploitation of a minor. He was also ordered to pay a $50,000 fine.

Patel also pleaded guilty in Third Judicial Circuit Court to one count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct and one count of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct, according to authorities.

Shailesh Patel

'Accidentals' set to appear at Village Theatre at Cherry Hill

'The Accidentals' will perform live at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill for one night only beginning at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11.

The Accidentals, featuring multi-instrumentalists Sav Buist, Katie Larson, and Michael Dause, have been combining an arsenal of sound since joining ranks in 2014 and have been wowing audiences ever since. This Traverse City-based trio has been named one of Yahoo Music's "Top 10 Bands to Watch." Billboard says, "The Accidentals display a genre-hopping range of influences and some smart songwriting skills to go with their abundant musical chops."

With five albums under their belt, The Accidentals are naturals on stage featuring Sav Buist - composer, arranger, and performer who is proficient on a range of instruments; Katie Larson - multi-instrumentalist songwriter and composer and Michael Dause - drummer, guitarist, and composer, who hails from Northville.

"The goal of our music has always been shared experiences," said Buist. "Music helps us process things that are hard to process. A lot of the writing comes from touring, and touring is just a myriad of extremes, triumphs, and failures. It's how we connect with people in those moments that shape our experiences. Hopefully, people can relate to something we're creating in a way that feels like understanding. Maybe, it offers a different perspective, and that leads to less loneliness and more community."

> *The goal of our music has always been shared experiences. Music helps us process things that are hard to process.*

The Accidentals, who started out as a regional phenomenon, continue to grow in popularity as they bring an eclectic blend of Indie, folk, pop, and rock that displays their extraordinary musicianship. Their dynamic music offers a blend of Neko Case lyrics, Jack White rock, with a touch of an influence of Queen.

Tickets are on sale now for $25 and can be purchased at www.cantonvillagetheater.org or by calling (734) 394-5300. Tickets can be purchased at the door, if still available, one hour prior to showtime.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton. For more information about this special performance at www.cantonvillagetheater.org or call (734) 394-5300. Preview The Accidentals' music and learn more about the trio at www.theaccidentalsmusic.com.

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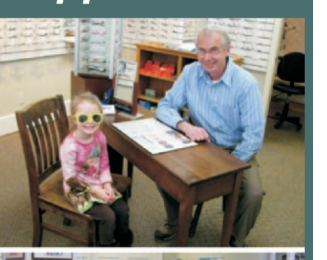

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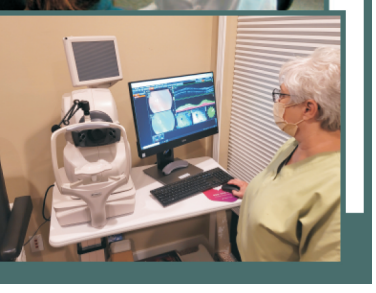

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Wayne - Westland

Former judge takes on new role in community

Retired 29th District Court Judge Laura Mack has taken on a new role in the Wayne community.

Mack, long a staunch advocate for mental health care, took the helm of the Northwest Wayne County chapter of Families Against Narcotics on Jan. 1. Chapter founder and former president, Western Michigan University Cooley Law School Professor Lauren Rousseau, will serve as secretary of the group this year.

Families Against Narcotics (FAN) was instigated from a town hall meeting in 2007--a result of two teen heroin overdoses just weeks apart in the suburban community of Fraser. All told, that community suffered 30 overdoses that year, all due to heroin. Feeling the need to take action to help prevent needless deaths, organizers set out to recruit members and educate the public.

> *"The Hope Not Handcuffs program launched Wayne and Garden City in March of 2021.*

Today, there are 20 FAN chapters in Michigan, with more in the process of being organized.

The Northwest Wayne County chapter was launched in 2017 by a small group of individuals, all of whom had been impacted by addiction in some way. The chapter mission is to save lives by empowering individuals and communities through education, prevention and support. By partnering with treatment professionals, the legal community, public safety, schools, and other help organizations, the Northwest Wayne FAN chapter hopes to facilitate change in the way addiction is viewed and treated in the Northwest Wayne County communities.

The chapter hosts free monthly forums on the first Monday of every month, during which speakers educate the audience about addiction and recovery. The group also offers a bi-monthly meeting of a group called Stronger Together, which provides support to families affected by the addiction of a loved one. Forums and Stronger Together meetings are currently virtual in light of the ongoing pandemic. The next public forum, scheduled for 6:30 until 8 p.m. Feb. 7, is entitled "Enabling: What it is, Why We Do It, and How We Can Stop."

Mack said she acknowledges that the last two years have been challenging for FAN, but is hopeful that 2022 will be a better year. Goals for the year include expanding the Hope Not Handcuffs program to more Northwest Wayne County police departments and continuing the recovery home scholarship program that was started in 2020.

Hope Not Handcuffs is an initiative of Families Against Narcotics through which people seeking treatment for addiction can go to a participating police station and ask for help. The desk sergeant then calls the Hope Not Handcuffs coordinator, who dispatches a volunteer "Angel" to the police department. The Angel then helps the person get into a detox or rehab facility. The Hope Not Handcuffs program launched Wayne and Garden City in March of 2021.

Hope Not Handcuffs is always in need of volunteer angels, Mack said. Anyone who wants to help can visit familiesagainstnarcotics.org and click on "Programs," then "Hope Not Handcuffs." On that page, click on "Become Someone's Angel" to be directed to training opportunities.

Retired Judge Laura Mack

For more information or to become involved with the Northwest Wayne County FAN chapter in any way, contact wwayne@familiesagainstnarcotics.org. Information about the group can also be found on Facebook at NWWayneFAN or @WayneChapterFAN.

Students' Random Acts of Kindness recognized

Three Random Acts of Kindness were rewarded in Westland last week during an official presentation at the city council meeting.

City Facilities Director Vic Barra and Police School Resource Ofc. Rodney Donald presented $20 gift cards to Zoey Boettcher who attends Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary School; Faith Bland, a student at PD Graham Elementary School and Na Talia Walmsley, a student at Wildwood Elementary School. The rewards were a part of the Compassionate City program and in partnership with the Wayne Westland Community Schools district.

Boettcher was rewarded for spreading kindness by always helping other students with their work. Nominated by her teacher, Stephanie Hess, Boettcher was rewarded for spreading kindness by always helping other students with their work.

"Zoey also helps me at recess collect playground equipment, even when she doesn't use it. She is the first to ask if she can help pass out papers. Zoey sees needs and fills them before being asked. She works hard. I can always count on her. She is always kind to everyone," Hess said in the nomination.

> *City officials said the ongoing partnership will reward other outstanding young compassionate students every month*

Bland was nominated by the school social worker, Alexis Rea.

"Giving a friend a compliment, and telling him he was awesome," Rea said in the nomination. "Faith shows kindness at school every day, and it is no surprise to anyone that she was "caught being kind" at Graham Elementary School. Beyond being kind, she is also a good friend, creative and a hard worker. Our Husky community is very proud of her."

Walmsley was nominated by her classmate, who wrote: "A few weeks ago, I was choking, and Na Talia was the first to notice and help me."

Wildwood Principal Christine Swanson, said, "Na Talia is a hardworking, helpful and spirited young lady who always puts her friends first. She is also an amazing sister to her kindergarten brother, helping him adjust to the rigors of school and schedules".

City officials said the ongoing partnership will reward other outstanding young compassionate students every month at the second city council meeting.

City officials, educators and family members congratulated Zoey Boettcher who attends Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary School, Faith Bland, a student at PD Graham Elementary School and Na Talia Walmsley, a student at Wildwood Elementary School, who were the first recipients of city awards for their Random Acts of Kindness. The rewards were a part of the Compassionate City program and in partnership with the Wayne Westland Community Schools. The students were honored at the meeting of the Westland City Council last week.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
February 22, 2022 at 7:00 PM

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Northville Township Municipal Offices, 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168 to consider a proposed amendment to the commercial component of the Village at Northville Planned Unit Development Agreement.

The public is invited to attend this public hearing and express their comments or ask questions. Plans will be available for viewing at the Township between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Written comments will be received by the Northville Township Planning Commission at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168 no later than 12:00 PM on the day on the above meeting.

Tim Zawodny, Chair
Planning Commission

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NORTHVILLE

River restoration task force presents report

Northville River Restoration Task Force members, led by former council member Nancy Darga, presented their framework report to members of the city council, during a recent meeting.

The group is preparing a plan to restore the health of the Rouge River in the area.

Darga noted the plan is a living document that will grow and evolve over time, such as with new opportunities. Some of these opportunities are the redevelopment of the Foundry Flask site and the Northville Downs property. She noted the entire project - local and regional - will need to be a public-private partnership. She said, "The future is bright. We couldn't do it without volunteers."

Kathy Spillane spoke about the challenges which include: contamination, habitat, storm water management, erosion, topography and park maintenance. For example, she said the Mill Pond and man-made alterations lead to sediment build-up and impair the passage of fish upstream and downstream.

The next presenter, Jennifer Maude, spoke about the problem sites and noted the Walled Lake branch of the Rouge River is probably the most impaired due to past industrial contamination. She said there is one superfund site in the city at Ford Field. With proactive engagement, remediation and redevelopment, she said she believes contaminated sites can be transformed into "vibrant places and beautiful spaces."

> *The vision is big.*
> *The steps are small.*
> *I'm excited about what we can do.*

Don Webb explained that some of the older retaining walls are failing and much of the riverbanks will need to be graded with plantings for stabilization. Darga cautioned council not to be alarmed at the project scope or projected cost but rather to look at the benefits that the Riverwalk and hub will bring - providing access to water courses and a series of connected pathways.

"The vision is big. The steps are small," she said and asked council members to be courageous, bold and flexible. "I'm excited about what we can do."

Council members expressed awe and appreciation for the year-long effort of the task force and the culminating presentation, noting the report and other task force reports are foundation items that need to be looked at strategically and prioritized among city goals and objectives.

Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Moroski-Browne said the city manager is working on a strategic planning meeting with council and she wants to see it done sooner rather than later. Mayor Brian Turnbull called the report and vision "transformational."

During the public comment section of the meeting, resident Michelle Aniol asked council members when the plan would be on the agenda and urged them to set a definite schedule for implementation.

Success story

Members of the Knanaya Catholic Youth League recently presented the Northville Township Police Department with a plaque to recognize the successful police programs and initiatives during 2021. These programs were developed to embody community policing and engagement, highlight the agency and its members, and continue to bridge the gap between law enforcement and community members, while providing excellent service and resources to Northville Township residents, officials said. Among the police department programs and outcomes honored by the youth organization were: Action for Autism, which was adopted by multiple agencies, including Michigan State Police who outfitted 2000+ patrol vehicles with calming bags; Hope for the Holidays which provided Northville Township families in need with $3,800 in gift cards and countless toys; the food drive with Northville Public Schools which generated more than 300 pounds of food for the Northville Civic Concern and Social with Seniors, a program which identified seniors in need of assistance and provided them with additional resources.

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Plymouth - Sumpter

Death of Jack Tornga,100, is mourned

The death of Jack G. Tornga, 100, who died last Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022 is being mourned by members of the Plymouth Noon Rotary Club where he was one of the longest serving members.

Mr. Tornga was a beloved member of the community and the club and his bright smile and ready wit were his trademark, friends said. Mr. Tornga retired from Ford Motor Credit Co. and was a past president of the Rotary Club where he also served in many capacities and on several committees during his decades of membership in the club.

Mr. Tornga was also a longtime member of Plymouth First United Methodist Church.

He attributed his longevity, when asked by friends, to his positive attitude and the philosophies by which he said he attempted to live his life.

"It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice," was one of his credos, along with "Once a task is begun, never leave it till it's done. Be the labor great or small, do it well or not at all." Mr. Tornga also often quoted his adherence to the Rotary Club Four-Way Test: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Mr. Tornga was preceded in death by his wife of many years, Virginia. Among his survivors are his daughters, Christine (Charles)Bush and Gretchen Beems; his grandchildren, Heather (Joshua) Reichmann, Andrew (Gabriela) Mosher, Dr. Megan Beems and Meredith (Matthew) Smith, and his great-grandchildren, Tyler (Taylor) Crutchfield, Noah Reichmann, Isaac Mosher, Juliet Mosher, Jackson Smith and Eleanor Smith.

Memorials may be made to the Plymouth Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 6464, Plymouth, MI 48170. Private cremation services were arranged and Mr. Tornga's cremains will be interred in the Plymouth First United Methodist Church Memorial Garden.

Memorials may be made to the Plymouth Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 6464, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Jack Tornga

Sumpter offers warming center for residents

Sumpter Township Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke recently reminded members of the board of trustees and residents that the township continues to offer a 24-hour warming center, available during the recent inclement weather.

Luke's comments came during the regular meeting of the township board last week. He explained that during dangerously cold weather the Sumpter Township Community Center at 23501 Sumpter Road is open as a warming station whenever needed by any resident of the township. He said the regular hours are 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday but that extended weekday hours and arrangements for weekend hours are available during extreme situations such as the recent intemperate temperatures. Luke said this information was especially important to township residents during the extreme cold in the area recently and the predicted cold weather anticipated in the area.

> *Sumpter Township is one of only nine communities of the 43 in Wayne County that offer this safety measure to the public.*

Luke stressed that the community center offers 24-hour shelter, if necessary, for residents and that Sumpter Township is one of only nine communities of the 43 in Wayne County that offer this safety measure to the public. He said that erroneous information about availability at the warming center had been circulating in the township.

Luke added that information about the availability of the service at the community center was available on township website and Facebook to ensure that the public knew of the availability of the service.

Recycling center safety measures remain in effect

The Sumpter Township Recycling Center remains open for residents' use, but township officials enacted safety precautions to ensure the safety of both volunteers staffing and those visiting the center. The precautions continue in effect as increased cases of the omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus are reported in the state.

While the anticipated long wait times at the center have abated during the past few months, the no-contact procedures for dropping off items at the recycling center continue. Residents should remain in their vehicles unless otherwise directed by center volunteers. Vehicle windows should remain closed and visitors should have identification proving township residence should be available to display. Volunteers have adjusted operations to include 6-feet of physical distancing and enhanced cleaning and disinfecting at the center.

Items to be dropped off at the center should be in the truck of the vehicle, the bed of a truck or in a trailer. Volunteers will remove most items from the vehicles but if staff members can't maintain a safe physical distance while unloading items, residents may be asked to unload the recyclables, officials said.

> *The precautions continue in effect as increased cases of the omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus are reported in the state.*

Items should be packaged in a cardboard box, paper bag or plastic bag that does not need to be returned to the resident. Place all items to be dropped off in the trunk of the vehicle rather than the passenger compartment. Ensure that the items to be dropped off for recycling are clearly labeled or identified and limit the other items in the truck, to avoid confusion, officials said.

Tire recycling is not available.

Those who fail to comply with the safety precautions will be turned away, officials said, as the procedures, which have been in effect since last year, were enacted for the safety of both residents and volunteers.

PARC

FROM PAGE 1

game changer for artistic performances and other events in the greater Plymouth community."

Melding that original architecture and enhancing the historic features of the 1917-built space provided some challenges, Grieger explained.

The school district had approved the installation of dropped ceilings and soffits sometime around 1960, completely covering the original fixtures.

Old photographs from various Plymouth High School yearbooks revealed there was a decorative proscenium arch above the stage, and sections of the plaster moldings could be seen from certain interior access points on the second floor, but no one was entirely certain how much of the historic detail remained intact behind the layers of drywall and ceiling tiles.

As demolition began, workers discovered the original proscenium arch, moldings and column in place, although repair of missing plaster details required meticulous attention.

The new space is designed, she said, for flexible use and technology has provided some key elements in the new space. Retractable auditorium-style seating was selected to accommodate events that may require tables and chairs. New rooms overlooking the theater were added on the second floor to house the advanced sound and light technology, including a camera system with the ability to both record and live-stream performances.

A grand opening of the Jack Wilcox Theater will be scheduled within the next weeks, Grieger said.

For more information, call (734) 927-4090 or email info@plymouthparc.com.

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www.waynemetro.org | (313) 388-9799 | wmconnectcenter@waynemetro.org

If you have any questions, email taxinfo@waynecounty.com or call (313) 224-5990